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ABSTRACT

This report presents the final data on the numbers of schools, students in membership, and full-time-equivalent (FTE) teachers reported for the 25 most populous cities and the 25 largest public elementary and secondary school districts in the United States and outlying areas. Cities are ranked on the basis of 1986 population estimates. School district rankings are based on total student membership as reported to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) by States through the Common Core of Data (CCD) surveys for the 1986-87 school year. All States, the District of Columbia, and all outlying areas under the jurisdiction of the United States, with the exception of Massachusetts, submitted data to the CCD surveys. Statistical data are included in three tables and three maps. Findings include the following: (1) student membership in the 25 most populous cities accounted for more than 11 percent of the total student membership nationwide; (2) in eight of the largest cities, more than one school system served the elementary/secondary school population; (3) the cities employed 221,475 FTE teachers (data for Detroit and for Boston are excluded); (4) 82 school districts serve 7,736 schools in the 25 cities; (5) more than 5 million students attend schools in the 25 largest districts; (6) New York City School District represents 17.7 percent of the combined school district student membership; and (7) the largest districts employ more than 265,000 FTE teachers. The appendix includes a list of 17 of the 25 most populous cities served by single school systems, and a list of eight of the most populous cities served by more than one school district. (FMW)

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Survey Report **September 1988**

Characteristics of the 25 Most Populous Cities' School Systems and the 25 Largest Public Elementary and Secondary School Districts: Fall 1986

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Highlights

25 Most Populous Cities

Contact:
Richard Paul Cook
(202) 357-6626

- Student membership in the 25 most populous cities of the country accounted for more than 11 percent of the total student membership nationwide in fall 1986 (table 1).
- In eight of these cities, more than one school system served the elementary/secondary school population.
- Students in these cities were taught by 221,475 full-time-equivalent teachers (excludes data for Detroit, Michigan, and Boston, Massachusetts).
- A total of 82 school districts served 7,736 schools in the 25 largest cities in the United States and outlying areas (table 2).

25 Largest School Districts

- More than 5 million students attended schools in the 25 largest districts in the Nation.
- New York City School District, with a student membership of 938,606, represents 17.7 percent of the combined student membership of these school districts.
- More than 265,000 full-time-equivalent teachers taught at schools in these districts (excludes data for the Detroit School District).

Elementary and
Secondary Education
Statistics Division

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This report presents final data on the numbers of schools, students in membership, and full-time-equivalent teachers reported for the 25 most populous cities and 25 largest public elementary and secondary school districts in the United States and outlying areas. Cities are ranked on the basis of 1986 population estimates which were compiled by the Bureau of the Census. School district rankings are assigned on the basis of total student membership as reported to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) by States through the Common Core of Data (CCD) surveys for the 1986-87 school year.

The total student membership (4,511,503) served by the 24 cities[1] that reported students is 11 percent of the total student membership (39,837,439)[2] in the country. The total student membership served by the 25 largest school districts (5,298,186) is 13 percent of the total student membership in the United States (table 1).

Seventeen of the 25 most populous cities in the United States during 1986 were each served by a single large, comprehensive, public school system organized to meet the instructional needs of the city's elementary/secondary school-aged population. These cities are listed in the Appendix.

Thirteen of the 25 most populous cities are served at least in part by 13 of the 25 largest school districts in the United States, although rankings on the two listings differ (table 3 and figure 2).

In eight of the 25 most populous cities, more than one school system serves the elementary/secondary school population. These cities, in descending order of population size, are:

Los Angeles, California
Houston, Texas
San Diego, California
Dallas, Texas
San Antonio, Texas
Phoenix, Arizona
San Jose, California
El Paso, Texas

The public school districts which serve these eight cities are listed in the Appendix.

1/Data for the Boston Public School District were not reported.

2/Common Core of Data (CCD) "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary and Secondary Education, School Year 1986-87," (Item D16), includes prekindergarten enrollments if reported by State education agency.

Methodology

Data on the numbers of schools, teachers, and students were provided by State education agencies from administrative records in each State through the Common Core of Data surveys: "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe, 1986-87" and "Public Education Agency Universe, 1986-87." Data in this report are the latest from the NCES series of annual collections of basic data on the universe of public elementary and secondary schools and agencies in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the outlying areas under United States jurisdiction.

In compiling these data from administrative record systems, each State education agency obtains fall student and staff counts from its respective local education agencies which operate public schools. Since each State agency used various collection methodologies to obtain these data, the "as of" dates for counts may vary from State to State. Each State agency may edit or examine the individual local agency reports before computing State totals and reporting to NCES.

If a State was the site of one or more of the 25 most populous cities in the United States, that State's CCD Coordinator identified the school districts serving those cities in the fall of 1986.

Definitions

Student membership counts are counts of students on current roll: sums original entries and reentries, subtracts total withdrawals, or sums total present and total absent; count taken on the closest school day to October 1.

Classroom Teacher is a professional school staff member who instructs students; maintains daily student attendance figures.

A Full-Time-Equivalent (FTE) is the amount of time required to perform an assignment stated as a proportion of a full-time position; computed by dividing the amount of time employed by the time normally required for a full-time position.

Response rates

All States, the District of Columbia, and all outlying areas under the jurisdiction of the United States, with the exception of Massachusetts, submitted data to the CCD surveys for the 1986-87 school year. Data were unavailable to report number of schools, students and teachers in Boston, Massachusetts and number of teachers in Detroit, Michigan.

Acknowledgments

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allowed the use of corrected estimate values prior to release of the data to the general public by the Bureau of the Census; and Maryellen Hajmosi, Estimates Division, who collected data needed to identify the population rankings of incorporated places with populations of less than 100,000.

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Table 1.--Selected characteristics of the 25 most populous cities in the United States: Fall 1986

Rank order	City	Census population estimate	School districts serving the city	Number of schools	Student membership	Full-time-equivalent teachers
1	New York, NY	7,262,700	1	978	938,606	52,311
2	Los Angeles, CA	3,259,340	2	620	*601,764	*25,812
3	Chicago, IL	3,009,530	1	594	431,298	21,620
4	Houston, TX	1,728,910	7	385	*325,257	*17,569
5	Philadelphia, PA	1,642,900	1	255	190,119	10,593
6	Detroit, MI	1,086,220	1	281	185,499	---
7	San Diego, CA	1,015,190	3	188	*148,642	* 6,143
8	Dallas, TX	1,003,520	3	207	*140,569	* 6,883
9	San Antonio, TX	914,350	14	293	*207,260	*10,971
10	Phoenix, AZ	894,070	16	184	*127,055	* 6,262
11	Baltimore, MD	752,800	1	179	111,243	6,023
12	San Francisco, CA	749,000	1	112	64,786	3,260
13	Indianapolis, IN	719,820	1	89	57,310	2,823
14	San Jose, CA	712,080	17	202	*142,815	* 6,132
15	Memphis, TN	652,640	1	160	113,101	5,187
16	Washington, DC	626,000	1	182	85,612	5,749
17	Jacksonville, FL	609,860	1	145	102,966	5,350
18	Milwaukee, WI	605,090	1	145	90,657	5,416
19	Boston, MA	573,600	1	---	---	---
20	Columbus, OH	566,030	1	133	66,158	3,489
21	New Orleans, LA	554,500	1	139	84,204	4,752
22	Cleveland, OH	535,830	1	130	73,263	3,299
23	Denver, CO	505,000	1	113	60,315	3,379
24	El Paso, TX	491,800	3	128	*119,430	* 6,120
25	Seattle, WA	486,200	1	103	43,574	2,332

--- Data are not available from the State education agency.

* The student membership and FTE of teachers are aggregations of membership and FTE teachers over all of the school districts which serve the city. In most instances, the school districts serve geographic areas that do not have boundaries coterminous with city boundaries and include geography beyond city limits. Therefore, the reported student membership and FTE of teachers may be more than the actual number of students served who also reside within the city.

SOURCE: Population estimates--U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce News, CB 87-165, October 16, 1987, and Revised Current Population Report, Series P-26, not released to the public as of 1/7/88. Education data--U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data surveys: "Public Elementary/Secondary Education Agency Universe, 1986-87" and "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe, 1986-87", as of 9/15/87.

Table 2.--Selected characteristics of the 25 largest school districts in the United States: Fall 1986

Rank order of school district	Public school district	Largest city within school district: Name	State	Rank order, by U.S. population	Number of schools	Student membership	Full-time-equivalent teachers
	Total				7,736	5,298,186	(1)
1	New York City	New York	NY	1	978	938,606	52,311
2	Puerto Rico	San Juan	PR	(2)	1,739	3674,669	32,096
3	Los Angeles Unified	Los Angeles	CA	2	619	3589,099	25,476
4	City Of Chicago	Chicago	IL	3	594	431,298	21,620
5	Dade County	Miami	FL	36	289	243,690	13,302
6	Houston Independent	Houston	TX	4	239	194,389	10,135
7	Philadelphia City	Philadelphia	PA	5	255	3190,119	10,593
8	Detroit City	Detroit	MI	6	281	185,499	---
9	Hawaii Dept Of Education	Honolulu	HI	38	229	164,336	9,077
10	Dallas Independent	Dallas	TX	8	192	132,389	6,397
11	Broward County	Ft Lauderdale	FL	112	161	131,725	6,886
12	Fairfax County	Fairfax	VA	1,239	180	3128,241	7,094
13	San Diego City Unified	San Diego	CA	7	153	3115,441	4,793
14	Hillsborough County	Tampa	FL	54	163	115,373	6,877
15	Memphis City	Memphis	TN	15	160	3113,101	5,187
16	Baltimore City	Baltimore	MD	11	179	111,243	6,023
17	Prince Georges County	Upper Marlboro	MD	10,849	171	103,301	5,556
18	Duval County	Jacksonville	FL	17	145	102,966	5,350
19	Clark County	Las Vegas	NV	78	119	3,495,416	4,357
20	Montgomery County	Rockville	MD	496	156	94,457	5,480
21	Jefferson County	Louisville	KY	52	158	92,940	5,114
22	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	WI	18	145	90,657	5,416
23	Pinellas County	Clearwater	FL	190	127	88,934	5,237
24	District of Columbia	Washington	DC	16	182	85,612	5,749
25	Palm Beach County	W Palm Beach	FL	306	122	84,685	5,260

--- Data are not available from State Education Agency.

[1] Total FTE of teachers was not calculated due to missing value for Detroit City School District.

[2] San Juan has not been given an official ranking by the Bureau of the Census. However, a ranking can be assumed for this report. San Juan's population of 431,200 is intermediate between Kansas City, MO, 441,170 (rank 29) and Fort Worth, TX, 429,550 (rank 30).

[3] No prekindergarten enrollment was reported.

[4] Reported grade range was ungraded to grade twelve.

NOTE: The Boston Public School District was not included in the school district rank ordering due to the unavailability of student membership data from the Massachusetts State Education Agency. In the 1984-85 school year, Boston had a public school enrollment of 59,303 students, for a national rank of 45. This was the last year for which enrollment for Boston was reported.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Center for Education Statistics,Common Core of Data surveys: Public Education Agency Universe, 1986-87 and Public School Universe, 1986-87, as of 9/15/87.

Table 3.—The 13 most populous cities of the United States drawn from the 25 largest cities served by 13 of the largest school districts, by rank order of population and student membership: Fall 1986.

City	Rank by Population	School district	Rank order by membership
New York, New York	1	New York City School District	1
[1]Los Angeles, California	2	Los Angeles Unified School District	3
Chicago, Illinois	3	City of Chicago School District	4
[1]Houston, Texas	4	Houston Independent School District	6
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	5	Philadelphia City School District	7
Detroit, Michigan	6	Detroit City School District	8
[1]San Diego, California	7	San Diego City Unified School District	13
[1]Dallas, Texas	8	Dallas Independent School District	10
Baltimore, Maryland	11	Baltimore City Public School System	16
Memphis, Tennessee	15	Memphis City School District	15
Washington, DC	16	District of Columbia Public Schools	24
Jacksonville, Florida	17	Duval County School District	18
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	18	Milwaukee School District	22

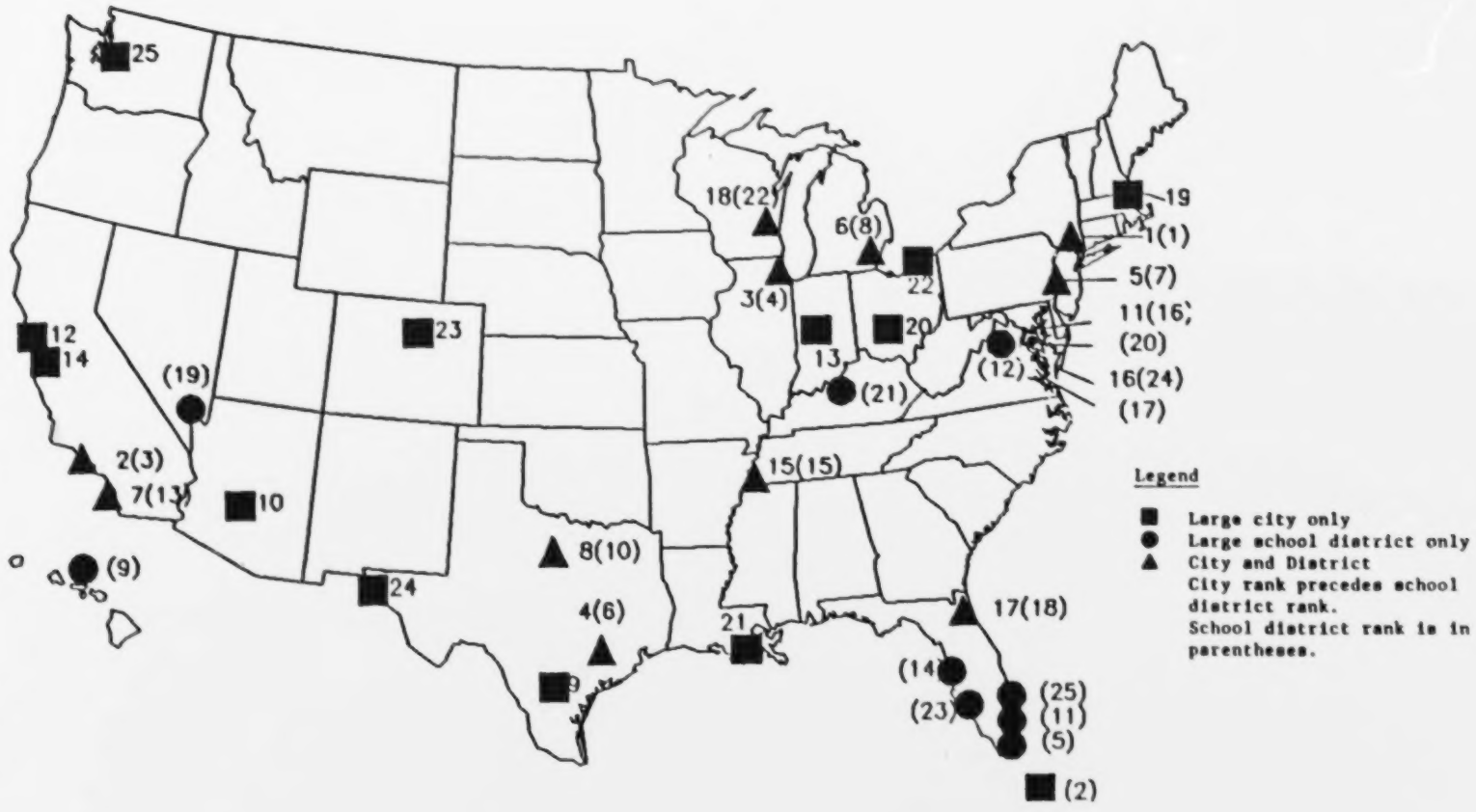
[1]The cities of Los Angeles, Houston, San Diego, and Dallas are each served by more than one school district (Appendix).

Figure 1.--The 25 most populous cities and the 25 largest school districts

25 most populous cities

25 largest school districts

Figure 2.--The 25 most populous cities and the 25 largest school districts, ordered by population and student membership



APPENDIX

The Number of School Districts Serving the 25 Most Populous Cities in the United States

Of the most populous cities, those with single school systems are, in descending order of population:

New York, New York
Chicago, Illinois
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Detroit, Michigan
Baltimore, Maryland
San Francisco, California
Indianapolis, Indiana
Memphis, Tennessee
District of Columbia
Jacksonville, Florida (Duval County School District)
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Boston, Massachusetts
Columbus, Ohio
New Orleans, Louisiana (Orleans Parish School District)
Cleveland, Ohio
Denver, Colorado
Seattle, Washington

Eight of the most populous cities are served by more than one school district. These cities and the public school districts that serve them are listed below:

Los Angeles, California
- Los Angeles Unified School District
- Los Angeles School District Regional Occupational Center

Houston, Texas
- Aldine Independent School District (ISD)
- Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
- North Forest ISD
- Houston ISD
- Spring ISD
- Spring Branch ISD
- Sheldon ISD

San Diego, California
- San Diego City Unified School District
- South Bay Union Elementary School District
- Sweetwater Union High School District

Dallas, Texas
- Dallas ISD
- Highland Park ISD
- Wilmer-Hutchins ISD

San Antonio, Texas
- Alamo Heights ISD
- East Central ISD
- Edgewood ISD
- Ft. Sam Houston ISD
- Harlandale ISD
- Lackland ISD
- North East ISD
- Northside ISD
- Randolph Field ISD
- San Antonio ISD
- San Antonio State School District
- South San Antonio ISD
- Southside ISD
- Southwest ISD

Phoenix, Arizona
- Alhambra Elementary School District 68
- Balsz Elementary School District 31
- Cartwright Elementary School District 83
- Creighton Elementary School District 14
- Fowler Elementary School District 45
- Isaac Elementary School District 05
- Madison Elementary School District 38
- Murphy Elementary School District 21
- Osborn Elementary School District 08
- Paradise Valley Unified School District 69
- Pendergast Elementary School District 092
- Phoenix Elementary School District 01
- Phoenix Union High School District 10
- Roosevelt Elementary School District 66
- Washington Elementary School District 06
- Wilson Elementary School District 07

San Jose, California
- Alum Rock Union Elementary School District
- Berryessa Union Elementary School District
- Cambrian Elementary School District
- Campbell Union Elementary School District
- Campbell Union High School District
- Cupertino Union Elementary School District
- East Side Union High School District
- Evergreen Elementary School District
- Franklin-McKinley Elementary School District
- Luther Burbank Elementary School District
- Moreland Elementary School District
- Moreland Elementary School District
- Mt. Pleasant Elementary School District
- Oak Grove Elementary School District
- Orchard Elementary School District
- San Jose Unified School District
- Santa Clara County Superintendent
- Union Elementary School District

El Paso, TX
- El Paso ISD
- Socorro ISD
- Ysleta ISD